THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to conduct a Linguistic Survey of the country which is likely to be completed within ten years of its commmissioning. The total budgetary requirement during Eleventh Plan period for this project has been estimated at Rs. 280 crores. During the Twelfth Plan period, estimated expenditure is Rs. 308 crores.

(c) and (d) The Census data on languages/mother tongues of Indian Union are presented State and Union Territory-wise, and not Zonal/Regional category wise like 'South India' etc. The census data on language/mother tongues covers the whole of India uniformly and uniquely. However, the country's first Linguistic Survey conducted under the superintendent-ship of Sir George Abraham Grierson from 1894, to 1927 in pre-independent India had excluded the Provinces of Madras and Burma, and the States of Hyderabad and Mysore. The data on lanugage derived from decennial census enumeration throughout India, are the only primary and authentic data available to the people of the country so far as language profile is concerned.

Findings of National Knowledge Commission

2778. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the findings of National Knowledge Commission regarding implementation of Right to Education (RTE) Bill in meeting Government responsibilities;

(b) the allocation of funds required/sanctioned by the Centre indicating response of State Governments in meeting their share of responsibilities;

(c) whether Government intends to amend the Right to Education Bill, so as to provide adequate Central funds and to set a time-frame for States to pass corresponding RTE Bills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The National Knowledge Commission have expressed their view that consequent upon enactment of the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002, the legislation envisaged under Article 21A of the Constitution which makes

education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6—14 years must be enforced by the Central Government. The National Knowledge Commission has recognized that there may be concerns about federalism since school education is dominantly the responsibility of the State Governments. It has however suggested that legislation at the national level should be enacted requiring the States to enact Right to Education Bills within a specified time period, with the primary financial responsibility resting with the Central Government.

The National Knowledge Commission have also made a number of other suggestions including, *inter alia*, schedule of norms and standards to be followed by the schools, specification for teachers, justiciability of the Right to Education, redressal mechanism and universal schooling etc.

In pursuance of Article 21A of the Constitution, a draft Model Right to Education Bill has been formulated and circulated as framework to the States/UTs with a view to seek their comments thereon. In order to motivate the State Governments to adopt the Model Right to Education Bill, 2006, it is proposed that the scale of funding under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) be made contingent upon enactment of appropriate State Acts on free and compulsory education where none exist, or suitable adaptation of existing Acts. The proposal to adopt the Model Bill has also been sent to the States/UTs for their comments.

Mark concession to SC and ST candidates

2779. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 607 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 2006 and state:

(a) whether Government do not give any mark concession to SC and ST candidates in the recruitment under Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether mark concession to SC and ST candidates is applicable in case of other services but is not being done in respect of selection of teachers for Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.